



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6250.0.25.002 - Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2013

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Summary

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants survey (CORMS), including details about the survey methodology and how to use TableBuilder. Data item lists and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata, as well as the definitions used, are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions and are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

CORMS was conducted in November 2013 throughout Australia and is designed to provide statistics such as visa type, education and employment both pre and post arrival for people who had arrived in Australia within the last 10 years, are not a New Zealand citizen and were planning on staying in Australia for 12 months or more.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- TableBuilder – an online tool for creating tables and graphs.

Further information about this service, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page. Before applying for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in the User Manual: TableBuilder.

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS web site.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and the microdata can be found in the various pages associated with this product, including:

- A detailed list of data items for the 2013 CORMS TableBuilder, available in the Downloads tab
- The Quality Declaration, Abbreviations and Glossary in the Explanatory Notes tab
- Other related products in the Related Information tab.

SUPPORT

For further support in the use of this product, please contact Microdata Access Strategies on 02 6252 7714 or via microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data obtained in the survey but not included in TableBuilder may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available, on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

PRIVACY

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Survey Methodology

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

General information about the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia survey, including summary results, are available in the publication Characteristics of Recent Migrants, November, 2013 (cat. no. 6250.0)

Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey design, data collection methodology, weighting, estimation and benchmarking and the reliability of estimates can be accessed from the Explanatory Notes page of that publication. All published summary tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from the Downloads page.

Please note that due to the confidentiality processes inherent in TableBuilder, estimates derived from this product will differ slightly when compared to those published in cat. no. 6250.0. The confidentiality processes applied for the TableBuilder product do not impact on the quality of the data.

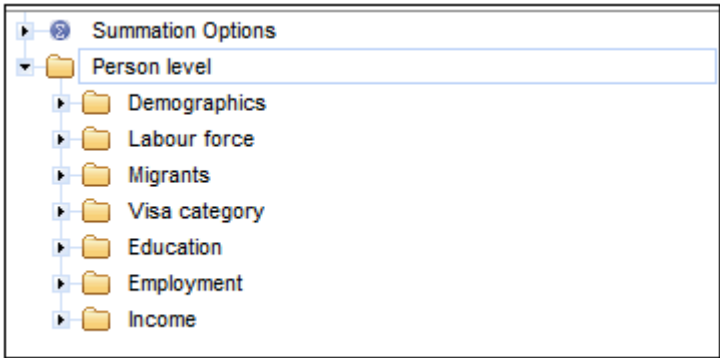
File Structure and Content

FILE STRUCTURE

The underlying format of the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder file is structured as a single person level file. This person level contains general demographic information about each survey respondent such as their age, sex, country of birth and labour force status as well details of their migration, visa, education, employment and income for recent migrants and temporary residents.

When tabulating data, person weights are automatically applied to the underlying sample counts to provide the survey estimates.

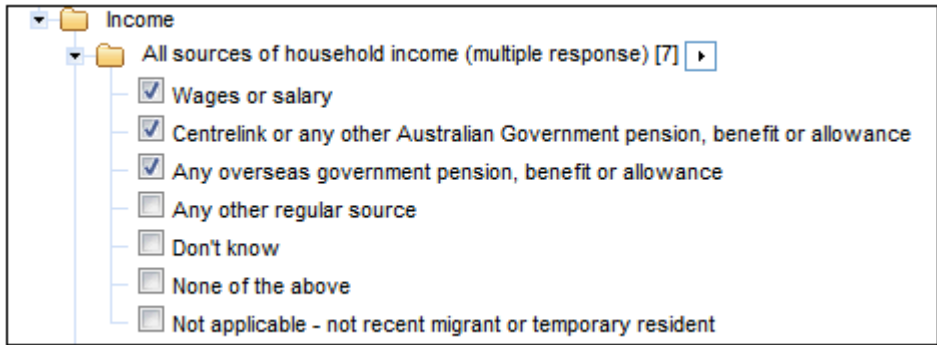
The data items included in the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder are grouped under the following broad headings and subheadings. A complete data item list can be accessed from the Downloads page.



FILE CONTENT

MULTI-RESPONSE DATA ITEMS

A number of questions included in the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS) allowed respondents to provide one or more responses. These data items can be identified in the data item list from the Downloads tab by the following label **<Multiple Response data item>**. For example, a person can report more than 1 type of household income, as show below.



The sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or number of people applicable to the particular data item as respondents are able to select more than one response, however the total will still remain as the total number of individuals estimated for that particular population of interest. For our example, the sum of the components in the table below is 18,705,800 whereas the total applicable population is 18,294,600 persons.

	Persons	Persons (000's)
All sources of household income (multiple response) ↑↓⊕⊗		↑↓
Wages or salary		1,283.2
Centrelink or any other Australian Government pension, benefit or allowance		369.6
Any overseas government pension, benefit or allowance		52.1
Any other regular source		137.0
Don't know		** 2.6
None of the above		26.8
Not applicable - not recent migrant or temporary resident		16,834.5
Total		18,294.6

For CORMS the following data items are multiple response:

- All difficulties experienced finding first job in Australia
- All difficulties experienced finding job held as at November 2013
- All sources of help looking for first job in Australia
- All sources of household income.

CONTINUOUS DATA ITEMS

For CORMS there are a number of continuous data items that are available for selection from **Summation Options** in the **Customise Table** pane. Continuous data items are generally those data items that can be measured, written as a value in a specified unit and can be placed in ascending or descending order. For this survey, some examples of continuous data include age (in single years) and hours actually worked in main job (single hours). These continuous items can be used to create sums, medians, means and customised ranges.

All continuous data items can be identified in the data item list by the following label **<Continuous data item>**.

NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES

Most data items included in TableBuilder file include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification values of the 'Not applicable' categories, where relevant, are shown in the data item list in the Downloads tab. The 'Not applicable' category generally represents the number of people who were not asked a particular question or the number of people excluded from the population for a data item when that data was derived (e.g. Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable for people born in Australia).

TABLE POPULATIONS

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be borne in mind when extracting and analysing data. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

ZERO VALUE CELLS

Tables generated from sample surveys will sometimes contain cells with zero values because no respondents that satisfied the parameters of a particular cell in a table were in the survey. This is despite there being people in the general population with those characteristics. That is, the cell may have had a value above zero if all persons in scope of the survey had been enumerated. This is an example of sampling variability which occurs with all sample surveys. Relative Standard Errors cannot be generated for zero cells.

Using TableBuilder

USING TABLEBUILDER

For general information relating to TableBuilder and instructions on how to use the features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: Survey TableBuilder, 2013 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

More specific information applicable to the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder product, which should enable users to understand, interpret and tabulate the data, is outlined below.

COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is the value that indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

As the underlying format of the Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder file is structured as a single person level, there is only one weight provided - a person weight. The **Summation Options** section in the **Customise Table** panel in TableBuilder contains this weight. When producing tables the person weights will be automatically applied to tables. All tables produced provide person estimates.

Conditions of Use

CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act 1905 includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering ABS questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on the ABS web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder, users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of Microdata Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that the ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder.
- understand that all data extracted from the survey output record file through TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment and respondent and processing errors
- users inform the ABS, through their Contact Officer, upon leaving their organisation that their access is disabled
- not provide their TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these conditions should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page. General microdata information is available via the Microdata web pages. To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry Page contains links to microdata related information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

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provide to us.

About this Release

The following microdata products are available from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, 2013:

- TableBuilder

Apply online for access to the TableBuilder at <https://www.abs.gov.au/registration>

This product provides data including migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of the respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

Explanatory Notes

Definitions and Quality

DEFINITIONS AND QUALITY

The publication Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2013 (cat. no. 6250.0) includes a list of the Abbreviations used in the microdata for the Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder. The publication also includes a Glossary containing definitions of selected terms.

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

TableBuilder files are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with TableBuilder can be found at the Survey Confidentiality Page.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS) provides a range of information about people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2003, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. People holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship before their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other people born in New Zealand were included. The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia and as at November, 2013). In addition, the survey collects information regarding language spoken on arrival in Australia and proficiency in English both on arrival in Australia and as at November 2013.

Aggregated population estimates from the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey are available from the underlying microdata in TableBuilder.

As a result of this survey being supplementary to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), persons excluded from the LFS were also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from this survey were people living in Indigenous communities in Australia and people in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, boarding schools, hospitals, retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities and prisons.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Survey was first conducted in 1984 and triennially thereafter up to 1999. It was collected again in 2004, 2007, 2010 and the latest survey was in 2013. The name of the survey was changed in 2007 to Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, and again in 2010, to Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey to better reflect the scope of the survey. Data from the survey are released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration.

This is the second iteration of the Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder, the first was published based on the 2010 data and was released in May 2012.

ACCURACY

The microdata generally contains finer levels of detail for data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia (cat. no. 6250.0). For information on the level of detail provided, please refer to the data item list in the Downloads tab.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available in TableBuilder are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from TableBuilder with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the Survey

COHERENCE

The ABS has previously conducted a survey of recent migrants in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2007 and 2010. While the ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey; sound survey practice requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. There were a number of changes to the survey between 2004 and 2007. In 2004 migrants who had arrived in the previous 20 years were included in the survey. However, from 2007 only migrants who had arrived in the previous 10 years were included. There were also new and reworded questions in the 2007 survey, with only minor development occurring for the 2010 and 2013 surveys. This means results from the surveys conducted in 2004 and earlier are not comparable with the 2007, 2010 and 2013 surveys. However, the 2007, 2010 and 2013 survey results are comparable.

INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product is the key source for reference when using TableBuilder. Included is information about survey objectives, methodology and design, survey content, data quality and interpretation and information about the file structure of the microdata.

The Explanatory Notes section of Characteristics of Recent Migrants (cat. no. 6250.0) should also be referred to as it includes further information on survey methods and design, comparability with previous surveys and summary results.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access TableBuilder should read the Registration basics and How to register web pages, before applying for access through the Registration page. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata web pages.

A full list of all available microdata can be viewed via the List of expected and available Microdata.

Any queries regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.

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